IT IS CLAIMED:

1. A composition for use in preparation of a medicament for treating a condition in human subject responsive to interferon tau therapy, the condition selected from an autoimmune condition, cancer, or a viral infection, said composition comprising interferon-tau formulated for oral administration to the intestinal tract of the subject in an amount effective to produce an initial measurable increase in the subject's blood 2', 5'-oligoadenylate synthetase (OAS) level, relative to the blood OAS level in the subject in the absence of interferon-tau administration, wherein said interferon-tau is administered to the intestinal tract of the subject in such effective amount, on a regular basis of at least several times per week, for a period of at least one month, independent of changes in the subject's blood OAS level.

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said interferon-tau is an ovine interferon-tau having a sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:3.

3. The composition of claim 1, wherein said interferon-tau is administered on a daily basis for a period of at least one month.

4. The composition of claim 1, for treatment of multiple sclerosis in the subject, wherein said interferon-tau is administered during a period corresponding to presence of the subject's symptoms.

5. The composition of claim 1, for treatment of hepatitis C infection in the subject, wherein said interferon-tau is administered for a period of several months past the time when no viral infection is detected in the subject.

6. The composition of claim 1, for treatment of cancer in the subject, wherein an anticancer agent is additionally administered to the subject during the period of interferon-tau administration.

7. The composition of claim 1, wherein the subject's blood OAS level is monitored during administration of interferon-tau to ascertain if the OAS level is increased.